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*'China Gears Up'¹³
On Defense After Lull,
But Trails U.S., Russia*

China is once again gearing up its defense production after a lull between 1972 and 1974, but still lags significantly behind the United States and the Soviet Union as a military superpower, according to an intelligence official.

"There is little chance in the foreseeable future China will become a superpower in the class of the United States and the Soviet Union," said Lt. Gen. Samuel V. Wilson, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Wilson's assessment was made in May in a closed session of Congress' Joint Economic Committee before the death of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the apparent elevation of premier Hua Kuo-feng as Mao's replacement.

"A sanitized" transcript of testimony by Wilson, CIA Director George Bush and other intelligence officials was recently made available.